

H.R. 3340. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to allow certain catch-up contributions to the Thrift Savings Plan to be made by participants age 50 or over; to reauthorize the Merit Systems Protection Board and the Office of Special Counsel; and for other purposes.

H.R. 5349. An act to facilitate the use of a portion of the former O'Reilly General Hospital in Springfield, Missouri, by the local Boys and Girls Club through the release of the reversionary interest and other interests retained by the United States in 1955 when the land was conveyed to the State of Missouri.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 3609. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to enhance the security and safety of pipelines.

H.R. 3833. An act to facilitate the creation of a new, second-level Internet domain within the United States country code domain that will be a haven for material that promotes positive experiences for children and families using the Internet, provides a safe online environment for children, and helps to prevent children from being exposed to harmful material on the Internet, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4073. An act to amend the Microenterprise for Self-Reliance Act of 2000 and the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to increase assistance for the poorest people in developing countries under microenterprise assistance programs under those Acts, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 958. An act to provide for the use and distribution of the funds awarded to the Western Shoshone identifiable group under Indian Claims Commission Docket Numbers 326-A-1, 326-A-3, 326-K, and for other purposes.

S. 2845. An act to extend for one year procedural relief provided under the USA PATRIOT Act for individuals who were or are victims or survivors of victims of a terrorist attack on the United States on September 11, 2001.

S. 3044. An act to authorize the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency of the District of Columbia to provide for the interstate supervision of offenders on parole, probation, and supervised release.

S. 3067. An act to amend title 44, United States Code, to extend certain Government information security reform for one year, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agreed to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 1214) "An Act to amend the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, to establish a program to ensure greater security for United States seaports, and for other purposes."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair wants to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), who is retiring as of today, for his great service.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain one-minute speeches today at the end of legislative business.

PRIVATE CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAN MILLER of Florida). Pursuant to the order of the House of Wednesday, November 13, 2002, the Private Calendar will now be called.

The Clerk will call the first individual bill on the Private Calendar.

NANCY B. WILSON

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 392) for the relief of Nancy B. Wilson.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be passed over without prejudice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

SO HYUN JUN

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 3758) for the relief of So Hyun Jun.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill as follows:

H.R. 3758

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. IMMEDIATE RELATIVE STATUS FOR SO HYUN JUN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—So Hyun Jun shall be classified as a child under section 101(b)(1)(F) of the Immigration and Nationality Act for purposes of approval of a relative visa petition filed under section 204 of such Act by her adoptive parent and the filing of an application for an immigrant visa or adjustment of status.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If So Hyun Jun enters the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (c), she shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall, if otherwise eligible, be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the petition and the application for issuance of an immigrant visa or the application for adjustment of status are filed with appropriate fees within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBER.—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to So Hyun Jun, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 1, for the current or next following fiscal year, the worldwide level of family-sponsored immigrants under section 201(c)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

(e) DENIAL OF PREFERENTIAL IMMIGRATION TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN RELATIVES.—The natural parents, brothers, and sisters of So Hyun Jun shall not, by virtue of such relationship, be accorded any right, privilege, or status under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY FOR CITIZENSHIP.

For purposes of section 320 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, So Hyun Jun shall

be considered to have satisfied the requirements applicable to adopted children under section 101(b)(1) of such Act.

Mr. McCRERY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3758, a private bill for the relief of So Hyun Jun (So Young June). This is a no-cost, no-controversy bill that will provide needed relief to my constituents John and Ok Sun Thornton of Leesville, Louisiana who adopted So Hyun in 2001.

So Hyun was born in South Korea on September 16, 1984 to Mrs. Thornton's sister. A car accident in 1999 left her parents incapable of caring for her. At that time, Mrs. Thornton and her husband were contacted about the possibility of taking custody of So Hyun. While visiting her family in Korea, Mrs. Thornton had occasion to see first-hand the hardships suffered by her niece. The Thorntons immediately agreed to bring her to the United States.

In February 2000, So Hyun arrived in Louisiana to live with her aunt and uncle. Mrs. Thornton traveled with So Hyun back to Korea during the summer of 2000 to collect her birth certificate and other important papers. It was during this trip that Mrs. Thornton's sister and her husband agreed to relinquish their parental rights, thus giving full custody to Mr. and Mrs. Thornton. Formal adoption proceedings were begun in August of 2000 and finalized in Louisiana State Court on March 6, 2001.

The Thorntons were careful to work with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to ensure that So Hyun's move to the United States went smoothly. Mr. Thornton contacted the INS a month prior to So Hyun's arrival to inquire about the procedure for bringing her to the United States. He was told the best method would be to bring her over on a tourist visa and then file the necessary forms to complete the adoption process. During this time, Mr. Thornton was misinformed three times about the correct form to complete. In January of 2001, Mr. Thornton once again called the INS Service Center with a question about the immigration forms, as So Hyun's visa was soon expiring. He was told that there was no need to renew the visa since they were adopting the child. However, upon the adoption's finalization, the INS Adjudication Office informed the Thorntons that So Hyun's visa could not be renewed, nor could she qualify for permanent resident status, as her adoption was not finalized by her sixteenth birthday. She missed that deadline by only seven months. And this comment from the INS was the very first mention of an age requirement.

While the Immigration and Naturalization Service may not extend permanent resident status to Miss Jun, she is eligible for private relief because her adoption was begun before she turned sixteen. Without this relief, Miss Jun risks deportation to Korea where no one is legally bound to care for her. Private relief is needed to help this adopted girl remain in the United States with her new family.

I want to thank Chairmen SENSENBRENNER and GEKAS along with Ranking Members JOHN CONYERS and SHEILA JACKSON-LEE for their assistance in securing passage of H.R. 3758. I hope the Senate will follow the House's lead today by passing this private relief bill before the end of the 107th Congress.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This concludes the call of the Private Calendar.

**WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER
AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT
ON S. 1214, MARITIME TRANSPORTATION
SECURITY ACT OF 2002**

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 605 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 605

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (S. 1214) to amend the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, to establish a program to ensure greater security for United States seaports, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it was my hope, I had actually assigned this rule for management to my colleague from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART), and I have his prepared statement here, and I will go through his prepared statement, Mr. Speaker. I love Florida, and it is a great spot. My family actually has a home there, but I am a Californian; so I am just offering that as a bit of a warning as I proceed with the statement of the gentleman from Florida's (Mr. DIAZ-BALART).

During the consideration of the resolution, all time yielded will be for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 605 is a standard rule waiving all points of order against the conference report to accompany the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 and against its consideration.

The underlying legislation is yet another integral part of our coordinated effort to provide the most effective and comprehensive homeland security plan possible. We are working to protect our citizens at home and abroad, we are working to protect our vital infrastructure, both physical and electronic, and we are working to improve our economic security. Today we will vote to protect our Nation's ports.

Our maritime industry, including hundreds of ports nationwide, contributes \$742 billion to the gross domestic product each year. The State of Florida has some of the largest ports in the country, and I should say I represent the Los Angeles area, which has the

Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, which are even larger than the ones in Florida I should add. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) represents the Port of Miami and Port Everglades. Thousands of passenger and container ships pass through these ports every year. Industries from retail sales to the airline industries are effected by the business that is done at these ports in both my State and in the State of Florida and around the country.

We must ensure that these ports are not only safeguarded from being used as a point of entry for dangerous elements, but also to protect them from an attack that could be devastating to our economy. The Port of Miami's impact on Miami-Dade County is estimated at more than \$8 billion and 45,000 jobs. In fiscal year 2001, the volume of cargo moving through the Port of Miami exceeded 8.2 million tons. Port Everglades' volume of business is equally impressive. In 2001, Port Everglades was host to over 3 million cruise passengers.

Our Nation's ports are significant partners in the U.S. economy and we must employ every conceivable option to protect them. This conference report will work to this end by requiring the Coast Guard to conduct vulnerability assessments of our ports, authorizing grants to help with port security upgrades around the country, and by assessing the security systems of certain foreign ports that do business with the United States.

Additionally, this legislation authorizes \$6 billion for the Coast Guard in fiscal year 2003, including \$550 million in additional resources to address longstanding budget shortfalls. The Coast Guard is charged with the tremendous duty of protecting our 95,000 miles of coastline. This legislation very appropriately addresses this reality.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the ranking minority member, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), as well as the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LOBIONDO), for their work on this very important issue. This is truly a bipartisan piece of legislation. In fact, every member of the conference committee has signed the report.

The conference report and the fair rule providing for its consideration deserve our support, and I would urge my colleagues to do this.

Mr. Speaker, I yield control of the balance of my time to the gentleman from Miami (Mr. DIAZ-BALART), who has arrived, and I know that he could have commented on Florida in a much better way than I, but I struggled to get through representation of his State if only on a temporary basis.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida will control the time.

There was no objection.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Committee on Rules for yielding me time and I thank my colleague and neighbor from Florida for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, this important legislation helps ensure the security of our Nation's ports by establishing a comprehensive national antiterrorism system to reduce the vulnerability of ports and waterways against a terrorist attack and a transportation security incident. Additionally, the conference report authorizes funding for these new antiterrorism fighting provisions as well as the planning and implementation of security plans and response efforts at all of our Nation's ports.

It authorizes additional funding to the Coast Guard which is much needed, and it establishes a nationwide security ID program for all U.S. ports. Perhaps most importantly, the report outlines the responsibilities of various Federal agencies, local law enforcement, and private companies in the day-to-day security operations of ports in the case of any unforeseen event.

□ 1315

Following September 11, as a member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and Committee on Rules, I was and remain an outspoken critic of the lack of coordination between Federal agencies in times of crises. I am happy to see that the conference had the foresight and wherewithal to provide guidance to the many agencies affected by increased port security. Perhaps our airports and the Transportation Security Administration could learn a few things from this report.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that I find myself managing this rule with the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART). I think the gentleman would agree that there is no region in the country that is home to three major international ports in such close proximity as South Florida. And the rest of Florida, if we take into consideration the Tampa Bay area, the Pensacola Bay area, Jacksonville and Port Canaveral, then Florida obviously is critical when it comes to port security.

Further, there are no ports that have done more security improvements in the last 18 months than Port Everglades, the Port of Palm Beach and the Port of Miami, all three of which are located in the counties the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) and I represent.

While the underlying report is good, it would be irresponsible of me to continue without noting two of the major flaws I believe still exist in the legislation.

First, ports who had planned for or implemented new security measures prior to September 11, 2001, that bring the port into compliance with provisions of S. 1214 should be able to be reimbursed for their expenses. The underlying report does not allow for this to occur.